

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. In response to the new grounds of rejection introduced in the final Office Action, Applicants offer the following Remarks and respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-13, 15-21 and 23-32

Claims 1-13, 15-21 and 23-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,266,070 to Hagiwara et al. ("Hagiwara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,725,472 to Weathers ("Weathers"). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office did not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to independent claim 1 because the combination of Hagiwara and Weathers does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (See, MPEP § 2143.03, citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)).

Claim 1 recites, among other features, "an emotion induction module for selecting from a plurality of emotion induction protocols an emotion induction protocol capable of inducing a desired emotion selected by the user, extracting one or more bioparameters from the biosignals, and changing the emotion induction protocol depending on increase/decrease patterns of the respective extracted bioparameters so as to induce the emotion, wherein each emotion induction protocol is configured to induce a different emotion by combining contents capable of inducing cognitive action of the central nervous system and conditions capable of inducing physiological action of the autonomic nervous system."

For example, the specification of the instant application describes that, in one embodiment, an emotion induction control unit 31 can select an emotion induction protocol capable of inducing an emotion, which has been selected by the user. (Specification at [0039]). The emotion induction protocol can be employed to induce physiological signals for an emotional state by using mental effects on visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile senses. (Specification at [0041] and FIGS. 6A-6F, showing examples of emotion induction protocols for inducing the emotions of pleasure, sadness, anger, fear, disgust and surprise).

Next, a biostimulation module 50 can output physical signals for stimulating the visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile senses of the user's body according to the contents and level of the emotion induction protocol selected by the emotion induction control unit 31. (Specification at [0045]).

Then, the emotion induction control unit 31 can calculate differences between changes in the respective bioparameters before and after the output of the physical signals for stimulating the body and extract increase/decrease patterns of the respective bioparameters based on the calculated results. (Specification at [0047]). FIG. 7 illustrates exemplary increase/decrease patterns of the bioparameters HR, SCRM and HRV, which can represent particular changes in the respective emotional states, where HR decreases and SCRM and HRV increase in an emotional state of pleasure, HR decreases and SCRM increases in an emotional state of sadness, and HR and SCRM increase and HRV decreases in an emotional state of anger. (Specification at [0050]-[0051]).

Neither Hagiwara and Weathers teaches or suggests all of the features of the emotion induction module recited in claim 1. In particular, neither Hagiwara nor

Weathers, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an emotion induction module for "changing the emotion induction protocol depending on increase/decrease patterns of the respective extracted bioparameters so as to induce the emotion," as recited in claim 1.

The Office provides that Hagiwara does not disclose that the relaxation refreshment apparatus described therein may be used for selecting a plurality of emotion induction protocols configured to induce a different emotion. (See, final Office action at page 2). Further, Hagiwara teaches a control means 131 for discrimination of the relaxed degree and awakening degree of the user based on measured R-R intervals of the electrocardiogram (Hagiwara at col. 9, lines 1-5), but nowhere does Hagiwara teach or suggest an emotion induction module for "changing the emotion induction protocol depending on increase/decrease patterns of the respective extracted bioparameters so as to induce the emotion," as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Weathers does not supply the teachings missing from Hagiwara. For example, Weathers describes an expert system for selecting from a protocol library a set of treatment protocols that will address the elements of various problems in a psychotherapy patient's problem list. (Weathers at col. 9, line 66 to col. 10, line 3). The treatment protocol is a set of rules which describe the logical and temporal relationship of patient and operator inputs with patient stimuli. (Weathers at col. 10, lines 3-5). Weathers teaches that the expert system selects the particular treatment protocol which corresponds to the problem selected by the patient. (Weathers at col. 10, lines 8-13). Further, Weathers teaches that the expert system administers the treatment in accordance with the

rules of the selected protocol, adjusting the generation of stimuli in response to patient data and in accordance with the rules of the protocol during the course of the treatment. (Weathers at col. 10, lines 31-33). Nowhere does Weathers teach or suggest "changing the emotion induction protocol depending on increase/decrease patterns of the respective extracted bioparameters so as to induce the emotion," as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Hagiwara and Weathers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 1, and of claims 2-13 and 29-31, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn. Additionally, for reasons analogous to those presented for claim 1, Applicants submit that independent claim 15 is also patentable over Hagiwara and Weathers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 15, and of claims 16-21, 23-28 and 32, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 22

Claims 14 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hagiwara in view of Weathers, as applied to claims 1 and 15 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,909,260 to Salem et al. ("Salem"). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

For the same reasons presented with respect to independent claims 1 and 15, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 22, which depend therefrom, respectively, are also patentable over Hagiwara in view of Weathers, and that Salem does not supply, and is not purported to supply, the teachings missing from Hagiwara and Weathers.

At a minimum, no combination of Hagiwara, Weathers and Salem teaches or suggests "an emotion induction module for selecting from a plurality of emotion induction protocols an emotion induction protocol capable of inducing a desired emotion selected by the user, extracting one or more bioparameters from the biosignals, and changing the emotion induction protocol depending on increase/decrease patterns of the respective extracted bioparameters so as to induce the emotion," as recited in parent claim 1, or "selecting from a plurality of emotion induction protocols an emotion induction protocol capable of inducing a desired emotion selected by a user," "detecting one or more biosignals from the user's body and extracting one or more bioparameters from the detected biosignals," and "inducing the emotion by changing the emotion induction protocol based on increase/decrease patterns of the bioparameters extracted from the biosignals," as recited in parent claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Response does not require additional fees. However, if additional fees are required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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